

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )

C. Edward Eckert )

U.S. Patent 6,850,551 )

Issued February 1, 2005 )

For Electric Heater for Molten Aluminum )

ATTN: SHANNON HARRISON

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APR 20 2009

OFFICE OF PETITIONS


**Petition to Accept Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fee  
For Patent Expired Unintentionally under 37 CFR 1.378(b)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 6, 2009.

04/15/2009 DALLEN 00000011 6850551

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2130.00 OP



Andrew Alexander, Reg. No. 27690

Date of Signature: April 6, 2009

Mail Stop M Correspondence  
Director of the USPTO  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Madame:

The above-identified patent expired on February 1, 2009 due to payment of the first maintenance fee after the due date of February 1, 2009.

The Commissioner is hereby petitioned to accept late payment of the \$490.00 maintenance fee, the \$65.00 surcharge for late payment within six months, and surcharge after expiration (unintentional) of \$1,640.00.

The patent owner is a small entity.

This petition is filed within three months of discovery of payment of the maintenance fee after the due date, well within the 24 months after the six month grace period.

The undersigned's secretary discovered that she had incorrectly docketed the due date as August 1, 2009 rather than the correct due date of February 1, 2009. Thus, the payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

A check in the amount of \$2,195 is enclosed. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500263.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No.  
27901



Andrew Alexander

Reg. No. 27690

Telephone (724) 727-3500

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